

October 5, 2006

Rep. Peter DeFazio
151 W. 7th Ave.
Suite 400
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Representative DeFazio,

Recently I received the attached correspondence from your office regarding my concerns about trains idling in the Oakridge city limits. My response to your investigative actions is also attached. The purpose of this letter is to update your office on recent train activity and to obtain any information you have regarding changes in their operations.

Although I was out of town for over two weeks shortly after our correspondence, I have been back in Oakridge since September 10th. As of today, there have been very few, if any, trains idling at the west end of Oakridge except when waiting briefly for a train coming from the other direction. I can not definitively state that is the case for the east end of Oakridge as I do not live at the east end and therefore I am not woken by trains in the middle of the night if they are idling for long periods of time in that area of town. I can say that during the day I have not seen engines idling anywhere in Oakridge for extended periods. I recently borrowed a decibel meter to assess the noise level, but have had no opportunity to use it (this is a good thing....). I am extremely pleased at this turn of events, especially as winter is approaching and the air quality in Oakridge becomes even more of a concern.

My question to your office is whether or not this is a conscious, permanent change in operations by Union Pacific, or a limited duration change due to some other operational need. I do not know specifically whom your office contacted at Union Pacific, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the Federal Railroad Commission (FRA) and the appropriate phone numbers for those contacts. If your office can provide me with that contact information, I am happy to do any necessary follow-up phone calls regarding this issue. I am curious whether or not Union Pacific is in violation of noise and/or emissions standards when idling several engines for extended periods of time within city limits and next to residential areas in a community that has air pollution non-attainment status. I am also curious whether or not Union Pacific has made changes to its operational policies for idling engines in the Oakridge area. If your office has received any information back from your inquiries at FRA and EPA, I would appreciate an update on this issue.

Thank you for any information that you can provide me. I am sorry to bother your office with such a local issue, however since it is a business that is governed at the federal level, it appears no local government agencies are capable of getting a response from Union Pacific or are willing to pursue the issue. Again, I am happy to follow-up with phone calls or whatever is needed to find out know the current status of their operational policy, if any laws have been broken, and who in particular to contact at Union Pacific, EPA, and the Federal Railroad Commission.

Sincerely,



Kathy Jensen
47718 First Street
Oakridge, OR 97463
541-782-2581
jensenc@efn.org

cc: Mr. Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator, Oakridge, OR
Ms. Sue Bond, Mayor of Oakridge
Ms. Kim Metzler, Lane Regional Air Pollution (LRAPA), Eugene, OR
Commissioner Faye Stewart, Lane County Commissioners Office, Eugene, OR

PETER A. DeFAZIO
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HIGHWAYS, TRANSIT AND
PIPELINES, RAILROADS

AVIATION

RAILROADS

HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE:

ECONOMIC SECURITY, INFRASTRUCTURE
PROTECTION AND CYBERSECURITY

RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE:

FORESTS AND FOREST HEALTH



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 25, 2006

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

- ☐ 2134 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3704
(202) 225-6416
- ☒ 151 WEST 7TH AVENUE, #400
EUGENE, OR 97401-2649
(541) 465-6732
1-800-944-9603
- ☐ 125 CENTRAL AVENUE, #350
COOS BAY, OR 97420
(541) 269-2609
- ☐ 612 SE JACKSON STREET, #9
ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 440-3523
- ☐ defazio.house.gov

Kathy Jensen
47718 West 1st Street
Oakridge OR 97463-9736

Dear Ms. Jensen:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart about Union Pacific (UP). I contacted the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on your behalf and asked if the idling engines were violating the Railroad Noise Emissions Compliance Regulations. I will let you as soon as I have a response from the FRA.

I requested a review by the Environmental Protection Agency of the Clean Air Nonroad Diesel Rule requirements for locomotive engines to determine if the UP emissions are in violation. Again, I will let you know as soon as I have additional information.

Meanwhile, I also contacted Union Pacific directly with your concerns.

Sincerely,

PETER DeFAZIO
Member of Congress

PAD:PJW

August 8, 2006

Rep. Peter DeFazio
151 W. 7th Ave.
Suite 400
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Representative DeFazio,

Thank you for your letter of response (attached) to my concerns regarding trains idling in the Oakridge City limits and your investigative actions. I appreciate you taking the time to respond even though I had not directly asked your office to do so. In retrospect, this was a mistake on my part.

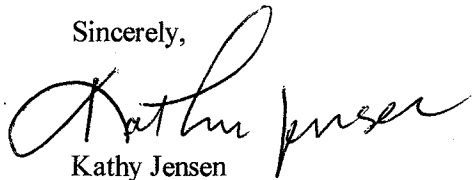
I have been out of town for over a week working and therefore have no knowledge of the train traffic during that period of time. However, on Sunday, August 6, 2006 a train with five engines parked at the west end of town at 8:30 p.m. and idled until 7:40 p.m. on Monday August 7th. The head engine was number 5506.

If there are any actions I can take to find an acceptable resolution to the issues of noise, pollution, and safety, please advise. So far the only response I have received from LRAPA and our City Government is that they have no recourse over train operations. The community was provided a toll free number to call to register complaints, however, this has not resulted in any changes to the operations. The number provided is a Union Pacific number, 1-800-848-8715 option 5.

I was prepared to contact the Federal Railroad Administration and the Public Utilities Commission to see what violations may be occurring. However, I will wait to hear what information your inquiry provides.

Again, thank you for your response and investigative actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Jensen", written over the printed name.

Kathy Jensen
47718 First Street
Oakridge, OR 97463
541-782-2581
jensenc@efn.org

cc: Gordon Zimmerman, City of Oakridge Administrator
Commissioner Faye Stewart